(c) if so, whether Government are aware of undue hardship faced by the CGHS beneficiaries to get the refund; and

(d) if so, whether any alternative system is under consideration of Government and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Any drug prescribed by the Govt. Specialists, not available in the dispensary, is issued to the beneficiary after procuring the same from the Authorised Local chemist on the basis of the individual prescription of the beneficiary. In the case of emergency, an authority slip is issued to the beneficiary for collecting the medicine directly from the Authorised Local Chemist without making any payment.

Medical Colleges in J and K

1921. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Medical Colleges both private and Government owned in J&K; and

(b) the details of health standard of the population in J&K?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) There are four medical colleges in the State of J and K. Out of which three colleges are in Govt. sector and one in private sector.

(b) "Health" being State subject no such data is being maintained by the Central Government.

Used syringes and disposable medical equipments

1922. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a gang has been collecting used syringes and disposable medical equipments from hospitals and after cleaning, these are packed for supply to hospitals as reported in the Indian Express dated 10th January, 2003 and thereby becoming a health hazard;